

CONNECTICUT



GREENWAYS

Connecticut Greenways Council

c/o CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

(860) 424-3578

www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/

Council Meeting Minutes April 9, 2018

9:30 AM to 10:30AM,

VHB, Inc. offices, 100 Great Meadow Road Suite 200, in Wethersfield, CT.

Bruce Donald
Tri-State Coordinator,
East Coast Greenway
Chairman

Lois Bruinooge
Executive Director
Last Green Valley

Bob Dickinson
Appalachian Mtn. Club

Michelle Eckman
Director of Education
CT Audubon Society

Joe Hickey
CT Forest & Park Assoc.

Jamie Lintner
Eversource Energy

Rista Malanca
Naugatuck River
Greenway
Vice Chairman

Stacey Stearns
CT Horse Council

William D. O'Neill
East Coast Greenway
Past Chairman

Laurie Giannotti
Ex-Officio
CT Dept. of Energy &
Environmental Protection

Anna Bergeron
Ex-Officio
CT Dept. of
Transportation

Council Members present:

Bob Dickinson, Joe Hickey, Jamie Lintner, Stacey Stearns, Lois Bruinooge, Bruce Donald, Anna Bergeron, Laurie Giannotti

Council Members on the Phone:

Rista Malanca

Council Members Absent:

Michelle Eckman, Bill O'Neill

Members of the Public Present:

Kevin Tedesco – AECOM, Transportation Planner II

Bruce Denny – Town of Vernon

Members of the Public on the Phone:

Julie Dupont-Woody – Avalonia Land Conservancy

Tim Malone – CROG

Call to Order 9:38

Acceptance or Revisions to Agenda – accepted with no revisions

Adoption of Minutes – March minutes approved. Joe Hickey/Bob Dickinson

Chairman's Report – SB 424 is still in the finance committee. A vote was held in committee to move forward a budget for transportation – part of the package is initiating tolls and augmenting the gasoline tax. Session ends in early May and the state bond commission is tentatively scheduled to meet in late April.

The Camp Meeting Road Bridge was installed yesterday in Bolton – it's the largest bridge of its type in the country and is bright red. It's part of the Hop River Trail, secured in place, and engineered so an EMT vehicle can go over it.

They are still working on the abutments over the river in Willimantic to connect the Hop River State Park Trail to Vernon. There will be a ribbon cutting on the Portland section of the Air Line State Park Trail in June. The CT Greenways Council (CGC) members are encouraged to attend as CT Recreational Trails Funds were utilized. Freight trains still use the lines up to the river (the Portland tracks). DOT has an operational contract with Worcester.

Correspondence – Laurie - We received another application for Greenway designation from South Windsor. We now have two applications for new greenways. The deadline is May 1st. Bob Dickinson explained that it's the trail across the Bissell Bridge, up Main Street, and out Chapel Road until it runs into the Greenway near the Hartford Distillery. It's a bike route and they want to construct sidewalk. Having it designated as a greenway will help them secure grants for the sidewalks.

Correspondence – Continued – South Windsor is also looking at trails along the power lines. The council discussed power line trails, and that Eversource wants to promote trail use and help with the greater good. About 15% of power lines in South Windsor are in private hands though. Power line trails can't be ADA compliant because of topography, but can be used for hiking and mountain biking.

CT DOT and Bike-Ped (BP) Advisory Committee – Nothing new on legislation and funding, they are awaiting a budget and everything is on hold until then. If it is state money and it's bonded it's already happening. If it isn't bonded it's not moving right now. The state budget has to be approved or close for the bond commission to meet.

The Town of Pomfret accepted their Transportation Alternative grant, and its part of their sewer project – they combined funding sources to make it happen. The project will also make improvements to the Air Line State Park Trail including seven road crossings. Most of the crossings are ramped up at a 5% gradient; they scaled down one of the bridges they were going to build. There will be two box culverts at crossings, and almost all crossings are mid-block. DOT has some crossing signs that can be installed. They are low speed and low volume sections of road.

The elevated section of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire is almost done. DOT is restoring the wetlands in the area now. The Community Connectivity program is awaiting funding, the proposals have been ranked though. Towns are anxious as construction season is starting.

The group discussed getting all of the maps and data combined, and into some database. There are lots of sources – DOT wants trail data too, and many Friends organizations have that. DOT is working in Esri and GIS – data can be sent to them.

Legislative Report –

- Some discussion was held during the Chairmen's Report on SB 424. We will need another legislative push if SB 424 goes to vote.
- There is constitutional amendment information on the CFP website, everyone should encourage their legislators to sign on to protect open space in perpetuity.

Old Business –

- CT Recreational Trails Program – covered under legislative report and chairmen's report.
- Greenways Day June 1 – The nominations for the 2018 Awards were reviewed. **Bob moved to approve all 9 nominations. Joe seconded the motion and it passed.** The awards are: Eric Hammerling (Advocacy Award), Laura E. Brown (Education Award), Ron Goralski (Nonprofit Award), Tim Malone Principal (Planning Award), Dr. Dennis O'Neill (Health Care Integration Award), Manchester Mayor Jay Moran (Municipal Achievement Award), Vince McDermott (Lifetime Achievement Award), Ann Letendre (Unsung Hero Award), and The Last Green Valley's HETAP Volunteer Committee (Volunteer Award).
- Trail Symposium October 25th. The CGC was requested to email Laurie agenda topics. The theme is Integration of Trails Into Other Systems. A couple of mountain bikers are on the committee this year. The next meeting is on April 18th. Goodwin College is central and will likely be the location again this year. The committee discussed day and time logistics and agreed on staying with Thursday because the target audience is professionals, legislators, engineers, selectmen, mayors, etc, and not volunteers. There are other conferences for volunteers so thought volunteers' needs were met. We just need to get on the agenda for their volunteer conferences.
- Greenways License plate – Nothing new to report

New Business –

- The electric bike bill was discussed. The CT State Parks Division of DEEP already have a policy in place. No trails are designed for motorized speeds, most trail sight lines, for example, won't support it – it's a safety issue.

Public Q&A – nothing further

Next Meeting – Tuesday May 14, 2018 at VHB, Inc., Wethersfield

2018 remaining meeting dates, held on the 2nd Mondays of the month are as follows. Other important dates are noted, please mark your calendars:

CT Greenways Day Event will be held on Friday June 1st.

June 11;

July 9

August – no meeting

September 10

October 9; Trails Symposium will be held on Thursday the 25th

November 13

December – no meeting

Adjournment 11:03 AM